

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 168819
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /025 R

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DRAFTED BY:IO:JABAKER/DD

APPROVED BY:IO:JABAKER

-----123179 200457Z /15

R 200022Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS STATE 168819

FOR ASSIST SECY MAYNES

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 11833 ACTION SECSTATE USIA WASHDC
USUN NY BONN GENEVA DATED JUL 19:

QTE: UNCLAS LONDON 11833

USIA FOR IPS, IEU, IAA; DEPT. FOR AF/S

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJECT: CBS INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG

EN ROUTE FROM BRITANNIA HOTEL TO AMERICAN

EMBASSY, LONDON, JULY 19, 1977

QUESTION: COULD YOU TELL US YOUR REACTION TO SMITH'S
DECISION TO HOLD ELECTIONS?

YOUNG: I THINK THEY'RE REACTIONS OF A DESPERATE MAN,
AND THEY CERTAINLY DON'T OFFER ANY LEADERSHIP IN THIS
SITUATION, THEY OFFER MORE CONFUSION AND I CAN'T SEE HOW
THIS POSSIBLY IS GOING TO PRODUCE ANYTHING LIKE A
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

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QUESTION: WHAT DOES IT DO TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PEACE
INITIATIVE?

YOUNG: I HOPE IT DOESN'T DO ANYTHING TO IT. I THINK
THAT ANY REAL PEACE IN THAT AREA HAS GOT TO BE AN
INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE PEACE, AND I THINK THAT THE

ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM IS VERY IMPORTANT PRODUCING PEACE THAT WILL BE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE.

QUESTION: BUT SMITH SAID THE ANGLO-AMERICAN, OR AT LEAST THE BRITISH INITIATIVE, IS (INAUDIBLE) SETTLEMENT.

YOUNG: WELL, I THINK THAT IF YOU LOOK BACK OVER THE LAST TWELVE YEARS, SMITH HAS SAID ONE THING IN PRIVATE AND ANOTHER THING IN PUBLIC AND THAT'S PART OF THE PROBLEM. THAT YOU HAVE, WELL, I THINK, THAT THE PATHS ARE STRONG WITH PEOPLE WHO BELIEVED IN SMITH AND WHO WERE DISAPPOINTED BY THIS KIND OF IMPULSIVE REACTION ON HIS PART. NONE OF THESE REACTIONS IN THE OAST HAVE EVER LED RHODESIA ANY CLOSER TO RESOLVING THEIR PROBLEM, WHICH RIGHT NOW IS UNDER A STATE OF SEIGE, AND I DON'T THINK THAT AN ELECTION IS AN ANSWER TO THAT. THERE WOULD BE AN ANSWER I THINK IN SOME COORDINATED LEADERSHIP.

QUESTION: BUT DOESN'T THIS GIVE REALLY A DEATHLY BLOW TO THE PEACE INITIATIVE?

YOUNG: I DON'T THINK SO. I THINK THAT THE PEACE INITIATIVES HAVE GONE ON, ESSENTIALLY TRYING TO FIND A SOLUTION THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA UNCLASSIFIED

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CAN RESPOND TO. WHEN I SAY THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE I MEAN BLACKS AND WHITES. IAN SMITH IS STILL ADDRESSING HIMSELF PRIMARILY TO A WHITE MINORITY THAT'S ABANDONING THE COUNTRY VERY RAPIDLY. HIS CALLING ELECTION ISN'T LIKELY TO INSPIRE A GREAT DEAL OF CONFIDENCE IN THEM AND GIVE THEM A GREAT DEAL OF HOPE IN SAYING. IT'S ALSO LIKELY TO CAUSE AN INCREASE IN THE MILITARY SITUATION ON BOTH SIDES, AND SO IT'S LEADING US POTENTIALLY CLOSER TO THE BLOODSHED THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM HAVE WORKED VERY HARD TO AVOID.

QUESTION: BUT ISN'T HE IN FACT THUMBING HIS NOSE AT EVERYTHING INTERNATIONALLY THAT HAS BEEN TRIED TO BE DONE?

YOUNG: I THINK THAT HE HAS DONE THAT FOR A DOZEN YEARS. THERE'S NOTHING NEW ABOUT THAT.

QUESTION: BUT THIS IS REALLY A FINAL THING SAYING THAT WE'LL HANDLE IT OUR WAY TOTALLY.

YOUNG: IT CAN'T BE FINAL, BECAUSE IT CAN'T SETTLE ANYTHING. IT REALLY OFFERS VERY LITTLE HOPE. IF THERE WAS ANYTHING GOOD THAT CAN COME OUT OF IT, YOU MIGHT CONSIDER IT A FINAL SETTLEMENT OR EVEN A MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. I DON'T SEE THAT RIGHT NOW.

QUESTION: WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT?

YOUNG: I THINK THAT I WOULD STILL LOOK TO THE MEETINGS THAT THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WILL BE HAVING WITH OUR SECRETARY OF STATE, AND I THINK THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A COUNTRY OF SOME SEVEN MILLION PEOPLE. IAN SMITH IS ADDRESSING HIMSELF PRIMARILY TO THE PROBLEMS OF A COUPLE OF HUNDRED THOUSAND, AND IGNORING THE OTHERS
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AS THOUGH THEY DON'T EXIST. I THINK THAT ANY SOLUTION IN RHODESIA HAS GOT TO CONSIDER EVERYBODY'S WELL-BEING AND I'M NOT SURE THAT HE'S EVER HAD THAT IN THE EQUATION.

QUESTION: IT SEEMS TO ME THAT HE WANTS MODERATE BLACKS IN HIS GOVERNMENT AND HE'S GIVEN UP ON THE ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE TOTALLY.

YOUNG: WELL, HE'S HAD TWELVE YEARS TO PUT BLACKS IN HIS GOVERNMENT. THE KIND OF THING THAT HE'S AFRAID OF NOW COULD HAVE HAPPENED VERY EASILY WITH IVOR RICHARD A YEAR OR SO AGO. IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED SEVERAL YEARS AGO WITH HAROLD WILSON, SO THERE IS REALLY NOTHING NEW ABOUT THIS, THIS IS STILL THE SAME UNPREDICTABLE, UNRELIABLE IAN SMITH MAKING ANOTHER DESPERATION MOVE, BUT I'M AFRAID THAT IT'S MUCH TOO DANGEROUS AND MUCH TOO LATE FOR THAT KIND OF ACTION, EVEN TO GIVE HIM MORE TIME.

QUESTION: AND YOU DO FEEL WARFARE MIGHT RESULT?

YOUNG: WELL NO, WARFARE IS GOING ON DAILY, AND I THINK OUR CONCERN WAS HOW TO MINIMIZE THAT WARFARE AND I FRANKLY THINK THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN DISCUSSIONS ALONE HAS PRODUCED AN ELEMENT OF RESTRAINT ON BOTH SIDES WHICH WAS IN THE INTEREST OF THE LIVES OF PEOPLE PRESENT, AND SO I WOULD CERTAINLY HOPE THAT WE WOULD STAY VERY MUCH INVOLVED, BECAUSE I DON'T SEE ANY SOLUTION COMING OUT OF THIS REFERENDUM.

THANK YOU, MR. AMBASSADOR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Source: CORE
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: STATE
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Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770737/aaaabgcb.tel
Line Count: 176
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 25170467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1802513
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CBS INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG EN ROUTE FROM BRITANNIA HOTEL TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, LONDON, JULY 19, 1977
TAGS: OVIP, SOPN, US, EG, CBS, (YOUNG, ANDREW J)
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/25170467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009